

(12) UK Patent Application (19) GB (11) 2 246 048 (13) A

(43) Date of A publication 15.01.1992

(21) Application No 9112178.0

(22) Date of filing 06.06.1991

(30) Priority data

(31) 9012917

(32) 09.06.1990

(33) GB

(51) INT CL^s
H04N 5/00

(52) UK CL (Edition K)
H4F FAA FD12M

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(58) Field of search

UK CL (Edition K) G5R RAB RAC RAD, H4F FAA
FGG FJF

INT CL^s G11B, H04N

Online databases : WPI, INSPEC

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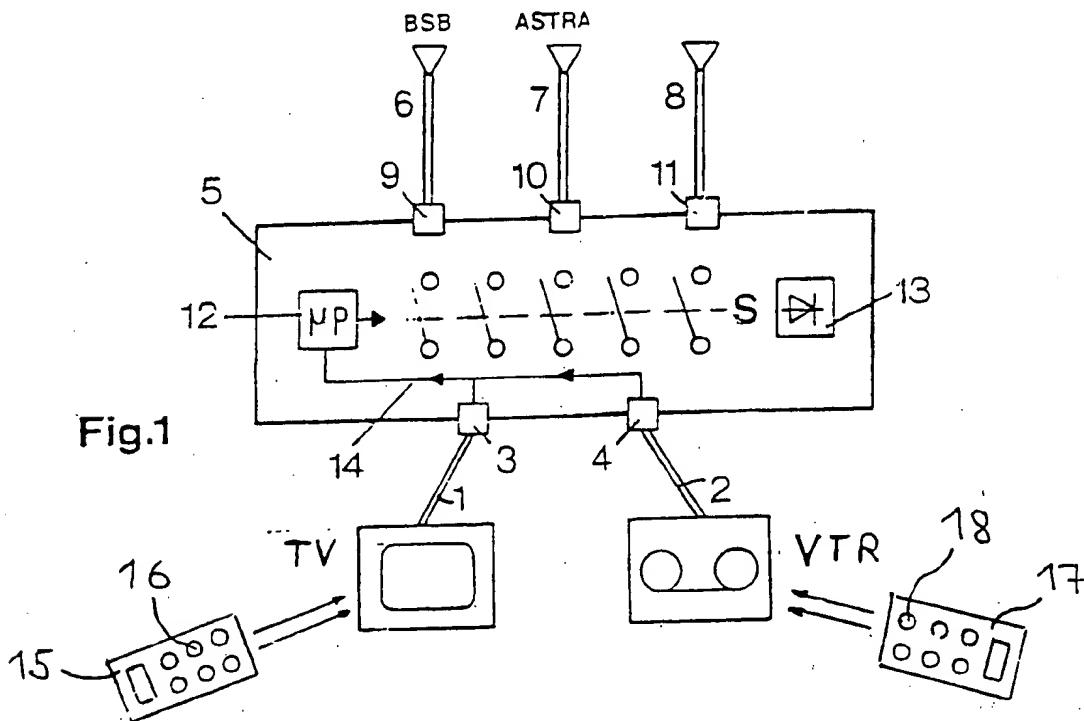
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(54) Selectively connecting a television device to one of a number of peripheral devices

(57) An increasing number of peripheral devices such as a computer, or satellite aerials, are individually connectable to a television receiver 1 or video recorder 2. Ease of interconnection and control of signal sourcing between the receiver, recorder and many peripheral devices 6-8 using single SCART connectors 3, 4, 9-11, is provided by a unit 5 including electronic switches controlled by coded switching signals from the television receiver or recorder, or a remote control device 15, 17 (which also control the receiver and recorder). The unit may be self powered, or fed from the receiver or recorder. It may be free standing, wall mounted or mountable on or in the receiver.



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EQUIPMENT INCLUDING A TELEVISION DEVICE AND A NUMBER OF
PERIPHERY DEVICES

The present invention relates to an equipment including a television device and a number of periphery devices connected thereto by SCART cables.

- Within modern television equipments an increasing 5 number of periphery devices have to be connected to the television receiver or to the video recorder. Said devices or signal sources may be an ASTRA antenna line, a satellite antenne, a computer, a BSB line or an auxiliary line. Said sources may be connected alternatively to 10 the television receiver or the video recorder whereas the television receiver may also be connected to the video recorder. Therefore, there is a requirement for means of connecting a full range of products directly to each other using peritelevision connectors. In 15 practice it may be difficult for persons not skilled in the art to make the necessary connections of SCART cables to the SCART sockets of said devices.
- It is an object of the present invention to provide ease of connections and control of signal sourcing 20 between many products using single SCART connectors.

According to the invention there are provided a unit to which said devices are connectable via SCART cables including electronic switches and further means for feeding coded switching signals from the television 25 device via said SCART cable to said unit for individually connecting one of said periphery devices to the television device.

The unit according to the invention constitutes a simple interface needing only one peri socket for 30 each periphery device for signal source. In single peri connector applications it will allow full use of features available without the need to separately remove and reconnect different SCARTs for different applications. It will also cut down on the amount of 35 connecting cables required. The interface allows connec-

receiver or the video recorder.

In order that the invention may more readily be understood, a description is now given by way of example only, reference being made to the accompanying drawing. The drawing shows in

Figure 1 the unit according to the invention together with periphery devices and sources connected thereto,

Figure 2 the arrangement of the SCART sockets of said unit,

Figure 3 an example for the switches within the unit and

Figure 4 another example for the arrangement of the switches.

In Figure 1 a television receiver TV and a video recorder VTR are connected via SCART cables 1, 2 to SCART sockets 3, 4 of unit 5 which has the form of a small box. Furthermore different periphery devices or signal sources like BSB, a line from an antenna for reception of signals from the satellite ASTRA and a line for auxiliary use are connected via SCART cables 6, 7, 8 to SCART sockets 9, 10, 11 of unit 5. Unit 5 includes a microprocessor 12 and a power supply unit 13. Furthermore a number of switches S is provided. Said switches are arranged in such a way that they can connect television receiver TV and/or video VTR to any one of SCART sockets 9, 10, 11. Furthermore switches S can interconnect television receiver TV and video recorder VTR.

If the operator wants to make the desired connection, for example to connect the television receiver TV to ASTRA socket 10 manipulation is made at the receiver TV or within a remote control unit. Upon this manipulation a digital coded signal generated within television receiver TV can be fed via one lead of SCART cable 1 to

may be realized by appropriate integrated circuits. No high switching speed is needed because the switches do not gate signals but only switch between different modes of operation or different sources.

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According to a further embodiment of the invention a remote control device is provided cooperating with the television device and/or the video recorder in such a way that said electronic switcher in said unit can be controlled by said remote control device. Such an embodiment is additionally shown in Fig.1. A remote control device 15 is provided for controlling the television receiver TV in a normal way. However, if a button 16 of the device 15 is held down for a longer time of about 10 seconds then the television receiver TV acts upon unit 5 in such a way that switches S connect television receiver to the next of the three sources shown, connected via cables 6,7,8 to unit 5. For example, by holding down button 16 for 10 seconds television receiver TV is switched by switches S from BSB socket 9 to ASTRA socket 10. If button 16 is held down permanently for a time longer than 10 seconds than switches S are actuated automatically for switching socket 3 from one socket to the next. If button 16 is released, switch S stops, automatically switching to a next socket 9, 10, 11 and remains on the socket just selected. In the same way unit 5 can be controlled by remote control device 17 with button 18 designed for normally remote controlling video recorder VTR. Each of a number of remote control devices 15,17 or more for controlling a number of devices can be used for controlling switches S in unit. The remote control devices are arranged in such a way that each button of all buttons of the device can be used for controlling

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CLAIMS

1. Equipment including a television device and a number of periphery devices connected thereto by SCART cables, characterized by a unit to which said devices are connectable via SCART cables and including
 - 5 electronic switches and further by means for feeding coded switching signals from the television device via said SCART cable to said unit for individually connecting one of said periphery devices to the television device.
- 10 2. Equipment according to Claim 1, characterized in that said coded switching signals are digital signals fed via a data bus from the television device (TV, VTR) to said unit.
- 15 3. Equipment according to Claim 1, characterized in that the unit contains an integral power supply.
4. Equipment according to Claim 1, characterized in that operation voltages for said unit are fed from power supply of the television receiver via said SCART cable.
- 20 5. Equipment according to Claim 4, characterized in that operating voltages are derived from a standby power supply.
6. Equipment according to Claim 1, characterized in that the unit contains a microprocessor for
 - 25 controlling said switches.
7. Equipment according to Claim 1, characterized in that said unit is included within the housing of the television receiver.
8. Equipment according to Claim 1, characterized
 - 30 in that said electronic switches are controllable by the remote control of the television receiver or the video recorder.